Implementation of CAS

2035. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been approached by the cable operators to reconsider implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what about the pay channel factors; and

(d) to what extent Government are prepared to accede the request of the cable operators while protecting the interests of the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In the Joint Memorandum dated 30th June, 2004, submitted to the Prime Minister by the Cable Operators' Federation of India (COUF), National Cable Television Association (NCTA) and the Cable Network Association (NCA) request has, *inter alia,* been made for the implementation of CAS as per the orders of the Madras High Court and to ensure that pay channels are not sold as bouquets and individual channel choice is enabled to the subscribers. Since the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is seized of these issues, the same has been forwarded to it for appropriate further follow-up action in this regard.

Special Benches of High Courts

2036. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Benches of High Courts proposed to be set up in various States, during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the locations thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for the purpose; and

(d) the total amount earmarked, sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The Government of India does not implement any plan scheme for setting up of Special Benches of High Courts in various States and therefore no funds are earmarked for the same.

In its report, the Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expediency and desirability of establishment of a Bench of the High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench. The report of the Commission was placed in the Parliament Library on 15.10.86 and was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 20.4.87 and 21.4.87 respectively, which may be referred to.

Setting up of a Bench of a High Court away from its principal seat is considered in the light of these principles and criteria as and when a complete proposal is received from the concerned State Government with the consent of the Chief Justice of that High Court.

Electoral reforms

2037. SHRI T.S. BAJWA.
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIDATTAMEGHE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has sent a report to Government recommending a series of measures for effecting electoral reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to initiate the process of a national consensus in the matter and take further follow-up action in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Election